

Summary of Legacy Project: HOPE of East Central Illinois

HOPE of East Central Illinois is a nonprofit domestic violence advocacy organization that serves Coles, Clark, Cumberland, Douglas, Edgar, Moultrie, and Shelby counties (*Domestic Violence Service Provider in East Central Illinois*, n.d.). The mission of HOPE is to empower individuals to live independent, non-violent lives through the provision of housing, outreach, prevention, and education (HOPE) (*Domestic Violence Service Provider in East Central Illinois*, n.d.). HOPE strives to create programs that aid its clients in breaking barriers that many victims of domestic abuse face. HOPE offers a variety of programs aimed at decreasing violence in the community. These programs range from outreach educational efforts in local schools to referrals and counseling to help empower victims to lead safe and prosperous lives (*Domestic Violence Service Provider in East Central Illinois*, n.d.).

This Legacy group visited the HOPE of East Central Illinois office in Charleston, IL, on February 28th and March 7th. We met at the HOPE office on both days and volunteered our services from 0800-1200. This group chose this organization because they are serving a vulnerable population. Far too often, society overlooks victims of domestic abuse, and in a rural community, it may be challenging to find services to help them leave their abuser. HOPE of East Central Illinois helps seven rural counties in Illinois, providing shelter, housing, counseling, and much more to help meet the needs of their clients in any way they can. It was rewarding to volunteer our time to such a fantastic organization. In nursing school, professors have told us that early intervention and health promotion are critical to helping improve the health of our patients. As nurses, we need to treat domestic violence as a health issue. If nurses received more education about domestic violence, nurses could play a vital role in helping these victims. The

services provided by this group impacted the organization positively. We helped restore the playground and helped organize donations to make them easily accessible to the organization's clients. The employees at HOPE are very busy with all of the programs they offer to their clients. Therefore without volunteers, it is hard for the employees to install mulch for the playground or organize multiple rooms full of donations because their priority is always helping their clients on the 24-hour crisis hotline or through counseling, for example. This group was happy to help the employees at HOPE check things off their to-do lists to serve their clients better.

HOPE of East Central Illinois strives to help victims of domestic abuse in every way they can. In 2022, HOPE served 799 individuals in the community (Domestic Violence Service Provider in East Central Illinois, n.d.). HOPE is a vital organization in our community that helps so many men, women, and children. It was a pleasure serving them.

References

Domestic Violence Service Provider in East Central Illinois. HOPE of East Central Illinois.

(n.d.). Retrieved March 19, 2023, from <https://hope-eci.org/>